

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 263 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

The following lists all claims and their status.

1-186 (cancelled)

187. (currently amended): A connector, comprising:

a first section having an opening and a cam system, wherein the cam system is configured to extend an engager into the opening to secure the first section to an elongated member positioned in the opening and wherein the cam system is configured to not axially advance into the connector during use of the cam system;

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a second section coupled to the first section, the coupling configured to permit movement of the first section and the second section relative to each other; and

a fastener configured to inhibit movement of the first section relative to the second section.

188. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other.

189. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 90° range of motion.

190. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 40° range of motion.

191. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 20° range of motion.

192. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to be angulated relative to each other.

193. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a range of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is less than about 30°.

194. (currently amended): The connector of claim 193, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is about 0°.

195. (currently amended): The connector of claim 193, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is greater than 0°.

196. (original): The connector of claim 195, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section relative to the second section is about 0°.

197. (original): The connector of claim 187, further comprising a lining between the first section and the second section.

198. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a portion of the cam system comprises roughening.

199. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the first section is inhibited from being removed from the second section.

200. (previously presented): The connector of claim 187, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

201. (previously presented): The connector of claim 200, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 45° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

202. (previously presented): The connector of claim 200, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 60° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

203. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the cam system is inhibited from being removed from the first section.

204. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the cam system couples the elongated member to the first section when the cam system is rotated.

205. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein a rotational range of motion of the cam system is limited.

206. (original): The connector of claim 205, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 360°.

207. (original): The connector of claim 205, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 180°.

208. (original): The connector of claim 205, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 90°.

209. (withdrawn): The connector of claim 187, further comprising a vibrational indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

210. (original): The connector of claim 187, further comprising a visual indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

211. (previously presented): The connector of claim 210, further comprising a drive tool that activates the cam system, and wherein the visual indicator is a position of a handle of the drive tool relative to a position of the elongated member.

212. (previously presented): The connector of claim 187, wherein the second section further comprises an opening and a second cam system, wherein the second cam system is configured to extend an engager into the opening of the second section to secure the second section to a second elongated member positioned in the opening of the second section, wherein a distance between a surface of the opening of the first section and a surface of the opening of the second section is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits adjustment of the distance during use.

213. (original): The connector of claim 187, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.

214. (currently amended): A connector for a bone stabilization system, comprising:
a first section comprising an opening, a cam system in communication with the opening, wherein the opening is configured to hold an elongated member, and wherein the cam system is configured to couple the elongated member to the first section by extending an engager into the opening, and wherein the cam system is configured to not axially advance into the connector during use of the cam system;

a second section coupled to the first section, wherein a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section are configured to rotate relative to each other within a limited rotational range of motion that is less than 360°; and

a fastener configured to inhibit rotational movement of the first section and the second section relative to each other.

215. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the range of rotational motion of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 90° range of motion.

216. (previously presented): The connector of claim 214, wherein the range of rotational motion of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 40° range of motion.

217. (previously presented): The connector of claim 214, wherein the range of rotational motion of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 20° range of motion.

218. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the first section and the second section are configured to be angulated relative to each other and wherein the fastener inhibits angulation adjustment during use.

219. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein a range of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is less than about 30°.

220. (currently amended): The connector of claim 219, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is about 0°.

221. (currently amended): The connector of claim 219, wherein a lower limit of angulation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is greater than 0°.

222. (original): The connector of claim 214, further comprising a lining between the first section and the second section.

223. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein a portion of the cam system comprises roughening.

224. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the first section is inhibited from being removed from the second section.

225. (previously presented): The connector of claim 214, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

226. (previously presented): The connector of claim 225, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 45° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

227. (previously presented): The connector of claim 225, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 60° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

228. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the cam system is inhibited from being removed from the first section.

229. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the cam system couples the elongated member to the first section when the cam system is rotated.

230. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein a rotational range of motion of the cam system is limited.

231. (original): The connector of claim 230, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 360°.

232. (original): The connector of claim 230, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 180°.

233. (original): The connector of claim 230, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 90°.

234. (withdrawn): The connector of claim 214, further comprising a vibrational indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

235. (original): The connector of claim 214, further comprising a visual indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

236. (original): The connector of claim 235, further comprising a drive tool that activates the cam system, and wherein the visual indicator is a position of a handle of the drive tool relative to a position of the elongated member.

237. (previously presented): The connector of claim 214, wherein the second section further comprises an opening and a second cam system, wherein the second cam system is configured to extend an engager into the opening of the second section to secure the second section to a second elongated member positioned in the opening of the second section, wherein a distance between a surface of the opening of the first section and a surface of the opening of the second section is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits adjustment of the distance during use.

238. (original): The connector of claim 214, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.

239. (currently amended): A connector for a bone stabilization system, comprising:
a first section comprising an opening, a cam system in communication with the opening,
wherein the opening is configured to hold an elongated member and wherein the cam system is
configured to couple the elongated member to the first section by extending an engager into the
opening;

a second section coupled to the first section, wherein one of the sections comprises an aperture configured to receive a portion of the other section, wherein a width of the aperture allows a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section are configured to be angulated only within a limited range of motion that is less than about 30° relative to each other ; and

a fastener configured to inhibit movement of the first section and the second section relative to each other.

240. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 90° range of motion.

241. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 40° range of motion.

242. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein a range of rotation of the first section and the second section relative to each other is limited to less than about a 20° range of motion.

243. (currently amended): The connector of claim 239, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of motion of the first section and the second section relative to each other is about 0°.

244. (currently amended): The connector of claim 239, wherein a lower limit of the limited range of motion of the first section and the second section relative to each other is greater than 0°.

245. (original): The connector of claim 239, further comprising a lining between the first section and the second section.

246. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein a portion of the cam system comprises roughening.

247. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein the first section is inhibited from being removed from the second section.

248. (previously presented): The connector of claim 239, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

249. (previously presented): The connector of claim 248, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 45° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

250. (previously presented): The connector of claim 248, wherein a portion of the cam system is angulated within the first section at an angle greater than about 60° relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section.

251. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein the cam system is inhibited from being removed from the first section.

252. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein the cam system couples the elongated member to the first section when the cam system is rotated.

253. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein a rotational range of motion of the cam system is limited.

254. (original): The connector of claim 253, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 360°.

255. (original): The connector of claim 253, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 180°.

256. (original): The connector of claim 253, wherein the rotational range of motion is limited to less than about 90°.

257. (withdrawn): The connector of claim 239, further comprising a vibrational indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

258. (original): The connector of claim 239, further comprising a visual indicator that informs a user that the cam system is engaged.

259. (original): The connector of claim 258, further comprising a drive tool that activates the cam system, and wherein the visual indicator is a position of a handle of the drive tool relative to a position of the elongated member.

260. (previously presented): The connector of claim 239, wherein the second section further comprises an opening and a second cam system, wherein the second cam system is configured to extend an engager into the opening of the second section to secure the second section to a second elongated member positioned in the opening of the second section, wherein a distance between a surface of the opening of the first section and a surface of the opening of the second section is adjustable, and wherein the fastener inhibits adjustment of the distance during use.

261. (original): The connector of claim 239, wherein the fastener comprises a setscrew.

262. (currently amended): A connector for a bone stabilization system, comprising:
a first section comprising an opening, a cam system in communication with the opening, and a connecting member, wherein the opening is configured to hold an elongated member and wherein the cam system is configured to couple the elongated member to the first section by extending an engager into the opening;

a second section comprising a holder adapted to hold a portion of the connecting member and allow movement of the holder and connecting member relative to each other;

a liner between the holder and the connecting member; and

a fastener configured to inhibit movement of the connecting member and the holder relative to each other when in a first position, wherein the fastener in a second position allows the connecting member and the holder to be moved relative to each other.

263. (cancelled)

264. (original): The connector of claim 262, wherein the fastener in the second position allows rotation of a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section relative to each other.

265. (currently amended): The connector of claim 264, wherein a range of rotation of the portion of the first section relative and to the portion of the second section is less than about 90°.

266. (original): The connector of claim 262, wherein the fastener in the second position allows for angulation of a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section relative to each other.

267. (original): The connector of claim 266, wherein a range of angulation of the portion of the first section and the portion of the second section relative to each other is less than about 30°.

268. (currently amended): The connector of claim 267, wherein a lower limit of the range of angulation of the portion of the first section and the portion of the second section relative to each other is about 0°.

269. (currently amended): The connector of claim 267, wherein a lower limit of the range of angulation of the portion of the first section and the portion of the second section relative to each other is greater than 0°.

270. (currently amended): A connector for a bone stabilization system, comprising:

a first section comprising an opening, a cam system in communication with the opening, and a holder, wherein the opening is configured to hold an elongated member, and wherein the cam system is configured to couple the elongated member to the first section by extending an engager into the opening, and wherein the cam system is configured to not axially advance into the connector during use of the cam system;

a second section comprising a connecting member, wherein a portion of the connecting member is adapted to be positioned within the holder, and wherein the connecting member and the holder may be moved relative to each other; and

a fastener configured to inhibit movement of the connecting member and the holder relative to each other when in a first position, wherein the fastener in a second position allows the connecting member and the holder to be moved relative to each other.

271. (original): The connector of claim 270, wherein the fastener in the second position allows rotation of a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section relative to each other.

272. (original): The connector of claim 271, wherein a range of rotation of the portion of the first section and the portion of the second section relative to each other is less than about 90°.

273. (original): The connector of claim 270, wherein the fastener in the second position allows for angulation of a portion of the first section and a portion of the second section relative to each other.

274. (original): The connector of claim 273 wherein a range of angulation of the portion of the first section and the portion of the second section relative to each other is less than about 30°.

275. (original): The connector of claim 274, wherein a lower limit of the range of angulation is about 0°.

276. (original): The connector of claim 274, wherein a lower limit of the range of angulation is greater than 0°.

277-282 (cancelled).